

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 17, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

As you continue to work on the Fiscal Year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I would like to respectfully request your support for the Assistance to Nuclear Closure Communities program outlined in the committee report language of H.R. 3055. A closure of a nuclear power plant has a significant impact on the economic stability and vitality of the surrounding communities through the loss of jobs and tax revenue.

Seven nuclear plants have closed since 2013 and eight others have announced retirement dates in the next ten years, including Three Mile Island and Beaver Valley in Pennsylvania. These localities are deserving of support for the risks they took to support nuclear facilities and the unintended effects they face from storage of radioactive waste. It is essential that we commit to uplift these communities and ensure that they are places of opportunity and optimism.

I urge the committee to provide the \$17,000,000 suggested by the House Appropriations Committee for competitive Economic Adjustment Assistance to expand the relevant work being done by the Economic Development Agency. These efforts include public works investments and economic diversification initiatives in communities impacted by recent or scheduled nuclear power plant closures.

While I recognize the need to make difficult choices in the current fiscal environment, I strongly believe that investing in these communities now will reduce future costs. For these reasons, I ask that in your FY 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, you provide funding for this important endeavor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator